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# Song of Saya



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*For my nieces and nephews, Amber, Austin, Amy and Adam. Dreams can come true!*

-Todd Ocvirk

*For Ava and Oliver Liatowitsch, who will read this... one day.*

-Daniel Liatowitsch

Special thanks to Rick Privman and Yumiko Miyano.

# Song of Saya

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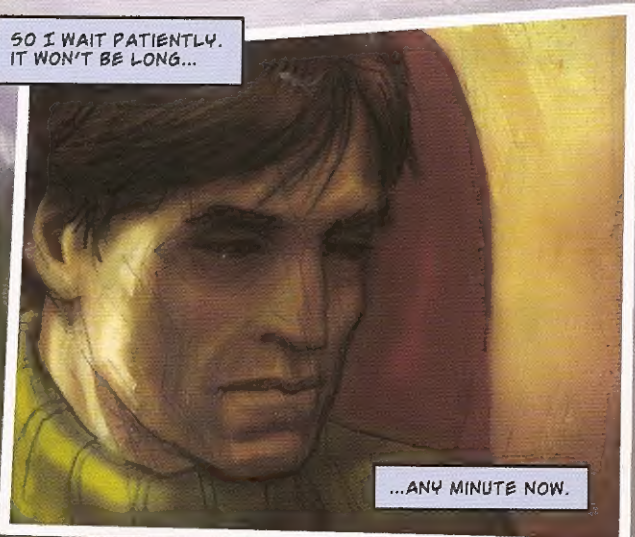
A full-page illustration of a snowy mountain landscape. In the foreground, a small wooden cabin with a snow-covered roof is nestled in the snow. A warm light emanates from the cabin's windows, and a small figure is visible sitting in a chair inside. The background features snow-covered evergreen trees and distant, misty mountains. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN LOVE?

THE WORLD CAN BE A COLD, DARK, AND SCARY PLACE. SOMETIMES YOU NEED SOMEONE TO HELP YOU MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL. TO GUIDE YOU. TO GIVE YOU HOPE.

HAVE YOU FOUND THE ONE PERSON WHO CAN DO THOSE THINGS? I HAVE. I FOUND THE LOVE OF MY LIFE. MY SOULMATE. THAT ONE PERSON WHO MAKES IT ALL WORTHWHILE. AND SHE'LL BE HERE SOON.

I WANT EVERYTHING TO BE PERFECT FOR HER WHEN SHE ARRIVES. NOTHING OUT OF PLACE. EVERYTHING PRISTINE. JUST LIKE SHE IS.

A close-up, high-contrast illustration of a man's face. He has dark hair and is looking downwards with a somber, patient expression. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his forehead and cheek, and deep shadows elsewhere. He is wearing a green sweater. The background is a warm, blurred mix of yellow and red.

SO I WAIT PATIENTLY.  
IT WON'T BE LONG...

...ANY MINUTE NOW.



HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SIX MONTHS AGO I WAS IN A DIFFERENT PLACE...

## Monte Claire Medical Center

YOU KNOW, EITHER DR. SHULTZ OR DR. TANNER ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PRESENT FOR ANY INTERACTION WITH THAT PATIENT.

I'VE PAGED THEM BOTH SEVERAL TIMES. BUT SHE NEEDS HELP. NOW.

MRS. BRAUN, I'M GONNA TURN ON THE LIGHTS, OKAY? WE CAN'T EVALUATE YOU IN THE DARK.

DON'T YOU HEAR IT? IT'S HER. SHE WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE...

NO! PLEASE, DOCTOR, DON'T!

SHE'LL COME BACK. SHE ALWAYS DOES. I CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT. I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. I JUST CAN'T...





REMEMBER THE LAST TIME WE MET, ROCHELLE? YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE A POSTAL WORKER.

FOR TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS, DR. JOSH. JOB LIKE THAT, I'VE SEEN PLENTY OF CRAZY. BUT BELIEVE ME, I AIN'T IT.



YOU'RE NOT CRAZY. THIS PROCEDURE... CUTTING-EDGE STUFF. IT SAVED YOUR LIFE, BUT THINGS WON'T FEEL NORMAL FOR A WHILE.



WE'LL ASK ONE OF THE NURSES TO STAY WITH YOU, OKAY?

THERE IT IS AGAIN. SHE'S COMING... DR. JOSH?



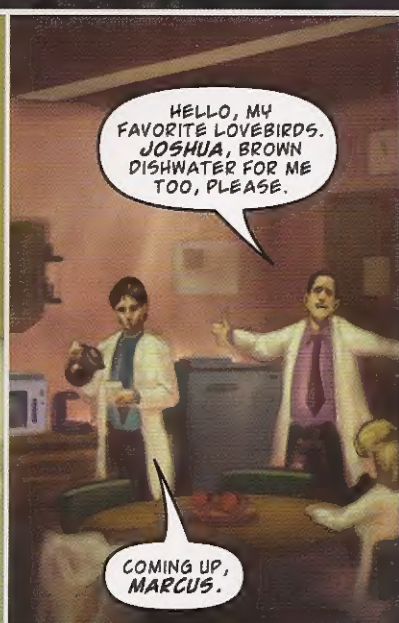
THEY'RE LETTING THIS POOR WOMAN SUFFER. FOR WHAT?

PART OF THEIR STUDY GROUP. VERY STRICT GUIDELINES. WE WEREN'T EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE IN THERE. WE'LL ASK DR. SHULTZ ABOUT IT TOMORROW NIGHT.



SPEAKING OF TOMORROW NIGHT, THE PARENTS ARE OVER THE MOON WE'RE COMING. HOW DID YOU LIKE THE—

THE DRESS? BEAUTIFUL, VERY FORMAL. SORRY I DIDN'T MENTION IT BEFORE.



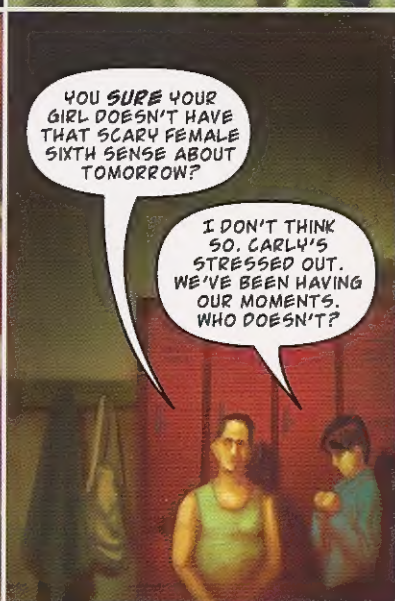
HELLO, MY FAVORITE LOVEBIRDS. JOSHUA, BROWN DISHWATER FOR ME TOO, PLEASE.

COMING UP, MARCUS.



SO WE'RE GOING TO WIPE THE LANE WITH THOSE EMTS TONIGHT, RIGHT?

I CAN'T, MARK. BIOSTATISTICS ACTUALLY REQUIRES ME READING A FEW BOOKS. ENJOY THE MALE BONDING, JOSHUA AND MARCUS.



YOU SURE YOUR GIRL DOESN'T HAVE THAT SCARY FEMALE SIXTH SENSE ABOUT TOMORROW?

I DON'T THINK SO. CARLY'S STRESSED OUT. WE'VE BEEN HAVING OUR MOMENTS. WHO DOESN'T?




ALL RIGHT, MAN—NOW FOCUS. BIG BALLS. PINS. BIG BALLS TOPPLING PINS.

A LITTLE LESS FOCUS ON BALLS AND YOU MIGHT HAVE A GIRLFRIEND TOO ONE DAY.

FUCK YOU, JOSHUA.





I EXPECT A LOT FROM JOSH... AS DO YOU, I'M SURE. HE HASN'T ESTABLISHED HIS FELLOWSHIP CANDIDACY YET.

HE'S A GOOD KID, WITH HIS MOTHER'S INQUISITIVE MIND. AND YOUR DEEP BRAIN-STEM FINDINGS CERTAINLY RUFFLED SOME ESTABLISHMENT FEATHERS.

CUTTING EDGE NEUROSCIENCE, JOSH? DR. SHULTZ HERE IS ALL BUT BEGGING...

YOU DO LOOK HANDSOME IN A SUIT.



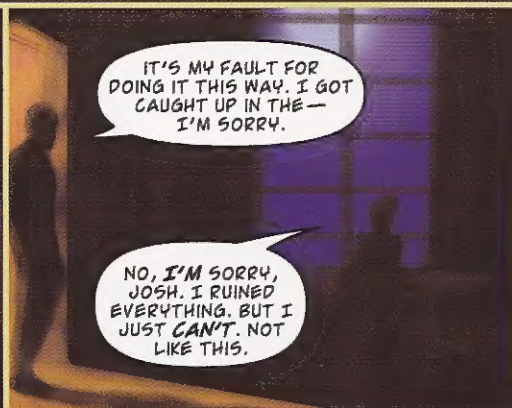
Y'KNOW, I CONSIDER MYSELF A LUCKY GUY. I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS. IN PARTICULAR, CARLY, WHO'S SO SPECIAL...

...WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT OVER THE LAST YEAR. YOU MEAN THE WORLD TO ME. IT WOULD BE MY HONOR IF YOU WOULD TAKE MY HAND IN MARRIAGE.





HEY, CARLY.  
IT'S OKAY.  
SERIOUSLY.



IT'S MY FAULT FOR  
DOING IT THIS WAY. I GOT  
CAUGHT UP IN THE—  
I'M SORRY.

NO, I'M SORRY,  
JOSH. I RUINED  
EVERYTHING. BUT I  
JUST **CAN'T**. NOT  
LIKE THIS.



I UNDERSTAND.

PLEASE TELL  
YOUR PARENTS  
I'M SORRY...



I  
SHOULD  
GO...



HEY, GUYS.  
I WANTED TO  
APOLOGIZE FOR  
THIS EVENING.

NONSENSE!  
IT'S NOT YOUR  
FAULT. IT'S NOT  
**ANYBODY'S**  
FAULT.

I CAN'T IMAGINE  
HOW YOU FEEL RIGHT  
NOW. YOU KNOW WE LOVE  
CARLY. SHE'S A GREAT  
GIRL—BUT MAYBE NOT  
THE ONE FOR YOU.



THE PERFECT  
GIRL IS STILL  
OUT THERE,  
SWEETHEART.

WHY DON'T YOU COME  
AWAY WITH US FOR THE  
WEEKEND? SKI A LITTLE,  
RELAX. IT MIGHT BE A GOOD  
OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO  
CLEAR YOUR HEAD.

YEAH. MAYBE  
YOU'RE RIGHT.  
IT'LL BE LIKE  
OLD TIMES.



ON THE DRIVE UP, I KEPT REPLAYING THE EVENTS OF THAT DINNER. IF ONLY I HAD DONE THINGS DIFFERENTLY...

LOOKS LIKE THE SNOW'S PICKING UP. WE'RE ALMOST TO THE SEDONA INN. WE'LL WAIT IT OUT, WE'LL PLAY SOME CARDS.

CARDS? BUT YOU BOTH ALWAYS GET SO SAD WHEN YOU KEEP LOSING. AT LEAST THEY HAVE THAT WONDERFUL PUMPKIN SOUP...

"AT LEAST THEY HAVE THAT WONDERFUL PUMPKIN SOUP."

I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S THE LAST THING I **EVER** HEARD MY MOTHER SAY.

AFTER THAT, THERE WAS ONLY **SCREAMING**.











EEEEEEEEEE



EEEE



EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

HELLO?



WHO'S IN HERE?

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE



MY FATHER...




...I'M LOOKING FOR MY FATHER...

SLAM






JOSH



MULTIPLE CRANIAL  
HEMATOMA. LIKELY  
SEVERE TBI. VITALS ARE  
DIPPING. BOY'S ABOUT  
TO KICK IT.



YES, HE'S BEEN  
LIKE THIS FOR A WHILE...  
THIS... CHANCE... NOT...  
DEAD... NOW...

YES, THE  
HOSPITAL. BECAUSE  
I WANTED TO SEE HIM.  
I DON'T WANT TO  
TALK ABOUT IT.  
GOTTA GO.



WELCOME  
BACK.



A FEW DAYS LATER AND I'M  
WISHING I HADN'T WOKEN UP...

HI, JOSH! HOW  
ARE YOU FEELING  
TODAY?

MY HEAD  
HURTS. REALLY.  
REALLY BAD.

YOU UNDERWENT  
QUITE A COMPLICATED  
SURGERY. I'M SURE  
YOU'RE AWARE OF  
THAT.

YEAH. IT ALL  
SOUNDS VERY  
FAMILIAR.

OTHERWISE, I THINK  
I'M PROBABLY DOING  
PRETTY WELL. OCULAR  
MOVEMENT SEEMS TO  
BE NORMAL...

DON'T BE A  
DOCTOR, JOSH.  
BE A PATIENT.

LET'S HAVE A  
LOOK, SHALL  
WE?


IT LOOKS GOOD.  
I'LL ADMINISTER SOME  
TRAMADOL—THAT  
SHOULD HELP WITH YOUR  
HEADACHES.

LISTEN, JOSH, I  
WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW  
SORRY I AM ABOUT THE  
LOSS OF YOUR PARENTS. YOUR  
FATHER WAS A DEAR FRIEND  
AND A VALUABLE ASSET  
TO THIS INSTITUTION. HE  
WILL BE MISSED.

I KNOW THINGS  
MUST BE DIFFICULT  
FOR YOU, BUT IF  
THERE'S ANYTHING  
WE CAN DO...

IT'S TOO  
BRIGHT... CAN  
YOU CLOSE THE  
SHADES?

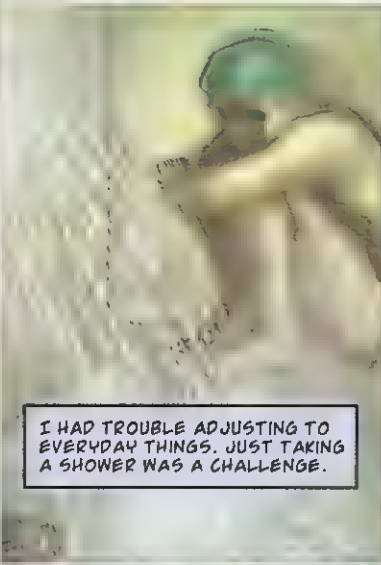





I HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THAT.

THAT BETTER?  
JUST REMEMBER  
WE'RE HERE TO  
HELP.


I UNDERSTAND THAT  
YOU REFUSED TO SEE OUR  
GRIEF COUNSELOR. I'D LIKE  
YOU TO RECONSIDER. WITH A  
LITTLE BIT OF WORK, THERE'S  
HOPE FOR YOU TO RETURN  
TO A NORMAL LIFE...




I HAD TROUBLE ADJUSTING TO  
EVERYDAY THINGS. JUST TAKING  
A SHOWER WAS A CHALLENGE.



BUT IT WAS NOTHING COMPARED  
TO THE REALIZATION THAT I  
COULDN'T REMEMBER HOW TO  
DRY MYSELF OFF.




I HAD NO APPETITE. A FEW  
BITES WERE ALL I COULD  
HANDLE TO CHOKE DOWN MY  
PILLS. MY PROGRESS WAS  
MEASURED IN MILLIGRAMS.



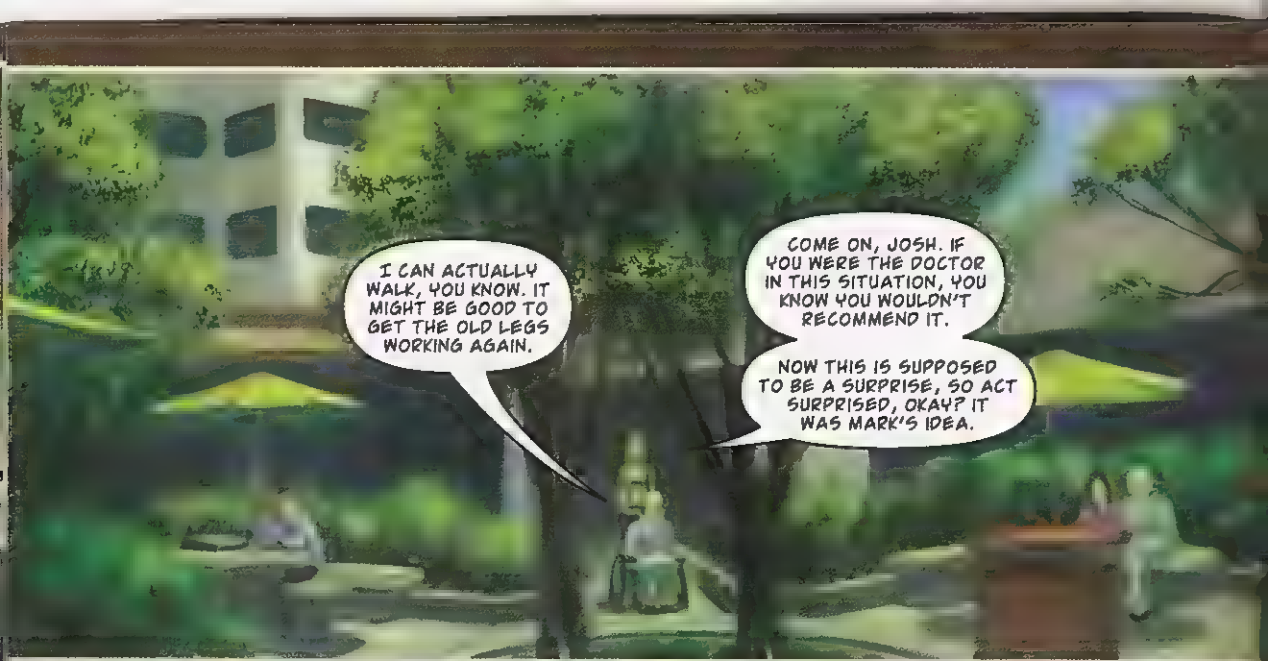
BUT THE HARDEST THING WAS  
KNOWING THAT I MISSED MY  
PARENTS' FUNERAL.

EEEEEEEEEE



I DIDN'T THINK I COULD RELATE TO ANYONE  
ANYMORE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I  
FELT ALONE. VERY, VERY ALONE...





I CAN ACTUALLY WALK, YOU KNOW. IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO GET THE OLD LEGS WORKING AGAIN.

COME ON, JOSH. IF YOU WERE THE DOCTOR IN THIS SITUATION, YOU KNOW YOU WOULDN'T RECOMMEND IT.

NOW THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A SURPRISE, SO ACT SURPRISED, OKAY? IT WAS MARK'S IDEA.



JOSHUA, GOOD TO SEE YOU, MAN!

WOW, MARCUS, I'M SO SURPRISED!



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THE MONTE CLAIRE TRIFECTA TOGETHER AGAIN.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU GUYS. AND I PROMISE NOT TO MAKE THIS THE MOST AWKWARD BIRTHDAY PARTY IN THE WORLD.



HOW'S SCHOOL? WHAT AM I MISSING?

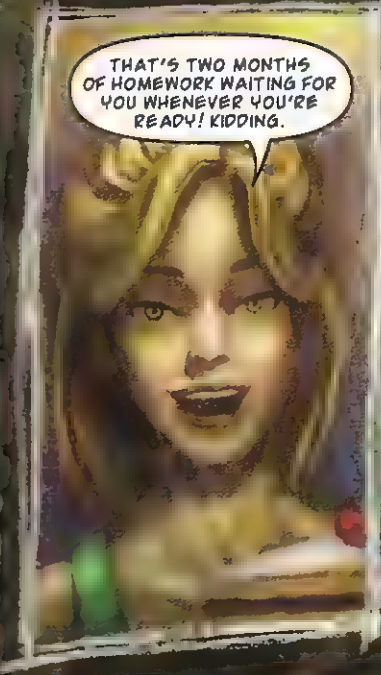
JUST MITZBAUM BEING A PAIN IN THE ASS. AS USUAL.

ACTUALLY, YOU'RE NOT MISSING ANYTHING. MARK AND I GOT SOME PEOPLE TOGETHER AND WE COMPILED NOTES AND LECTURES FOR ALL YOUR CLASSES.




GEE, THANKS...







THAT'S TWO MONTHS  
OF HOMEWORK WAITING FOR  
YOU WHENEVER YOU'RE  
READY! KIDDING.



BUT WE REALLY  
DO HAVE THE NOTES  
IF YOU WANT  
THEM.




WHAT I WANT IS MY  
BOWLING PARTNER BACK.  
THOSE DAMN EMTS PUT ME  
TWO BILLS IN THE HOLE.  
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?




YOU WANT ICE  
CREAM WITH YOUR  
CAKE, JOSH?


HUH?



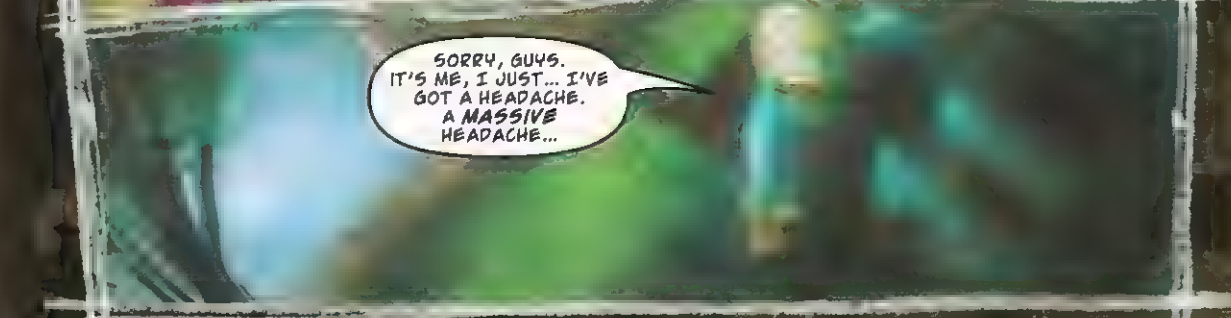
UH...  
Y-YEAH...  
NO... SURE,  
WHATEVER...



JOSH?  
YOU OKAY,  
BUDDY?



YOU LOOK  
SICK. THIS IS  
TOO MUCH,  
ISN'T IT?



SORRY, GUYS.  
IT'S ME, I JUST... I'VE  
GOT A HEADACHE.  
A MASSIVE  
HEADACHE...





YOUR BRAIN DOES  
SHOW REMARKABLE  
RECOVERY.

GREAT. SO HOW  
ABOUT I GO HOME  
NEXT WEEK?



YOU WANT TO  
BE WELL AND YOUR  
BRAIN IS REACTING  
FAVORABLY. THAT'S  
FANTASTIC NEWS.

AT THE SAME TIME,  
YOU EXPERIENCED VERY  
SIGNIFICANT TRAUMA.  
THERE WILL BE  
SETBACKS.

I UNDERSTAND.  
I'LL ONLY BE THREE  
DIGITS AND TEN  
MINUTES OF RESPOND  
TIME AWAY.



YOUR BRAIN IS  
RE-ESTABLISHING  
ITS PERCEPTION OF  
REALITY. IT CAN GET  
CONFUSED AT  
TIMES...

I'LL BE  
LIVING MY  
DREAM.



WHAT  
HAPPENED  
OUTSIDE  
YESTERDAY?

IT WAS JUST  
A LITTLE HICCUP.  
THERE ONE SECOND,  
GONE THE NEXT.  
CERTAINLY LIVENED  
THINGS UP.



A HICCUP. I'VE  
NEVER HEARD IT  
REFERRED TO LIKE THAT.  
SOME OF OUR PREVIOUS  
PATIENTS DESCRIBED  
THEIR HALLUCINATIONS  
AS PROFOUNDLY  
DISTURBING.

THEY WERE  
JUST BEING  
DRAMATIC BECAUSE  
THEY LIKED THE  
FOOD HERE.



WE'VE HAD VERY  
GOOD SUCCESS WITH A  
THIRD-GEN ANTIPSYCHOTIC  
DERIVATIVE. I'LL WRITE  
YOU A PRESCRIPTION... FOR  
BAD CASES OF THE  
HICCUPS.

BY THE END OF NEXT  
WEEK, WE'LL ASSESS  
HOMECARE. AN ORDERLY  
WILL BE DOWN FOR YOU  
SHORTLY.





HELLO,  
DOC.



ODD TO SEE  
YOU LIKE  
THIS, DOCTOR.  
HOW DOES IT  
FEEL?

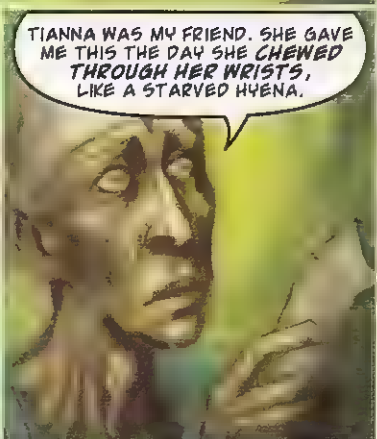
IT'S BEEN  
INSTRUCTIONAL,  
ROCHELLE. HOW  
ARE YOU?



GOOD.  
SO YOU'RE  
STARTING  
TO SEE.

BEING A PATIENT  
HAS GIVEN ME A  
VERY DIFFERENT  
PERSPECTIVE...

IT'S ALL REAL, DOCTOR.  
WHATEVER IT IS YOU SEE—IT'S  
ALL REAL. DON'T LET THEM  
TELL YOU OTHERWISE.



TIANNA WAS MY FRIEND. SHE GAVE  
ME THIS THE DAY SHE **CHEWED**  
**THROUGH HER WRISTS,**  
LIKE A STARVED HYENA.



SHE KNEW IT  
WAS REAL, TOO.  
SHE SAID IT WAS  
ON THIS FLOOR...

...YOU WERE  
ALWAYS NICE,  
DOCTOR. PLEASE  
BE CAREFUL.



THERE'S  
MY MAN. TIME  
TO GO...





le patient wrists Monte Claire Medica

HOW O

HOW ABOUT WRIST  
MUTILATION? ORAL  
WRIST SURGERY...  
**SOMETHING.**

Medical Center for Orthopedic Sur

on orthopaedic surgery center provides pr  
hopaedic diseases, sports medicine and o  
/near?page=3...Monte+Claire%2C..

Monte Claire Medical Center of Ortn

is the was the first ASC (Ambulatory Surg  
dicated to orthopaedics at its...


THAT SOUND...  
WHAT THE  
HELL?

**ZZZZZZZZZZ**





FATHER?  
IS THAT  
YOU?




WHO ARE  
YOU? DO I  
KNOW YOU?



AREN'T YOU  
AFRAID?

AFRAID OF  
WHAT? WHAT'S  
YOUR NAME?



MY NAME IS  
SAYA. I'M LOOKING  
FOR MY FATHER, DR.  
CHARLES OJAI. DO  
YOU KNOW HIM?

OJAI? THAT  
SOUNDS FAMILIAR. I  
DON'T THINK HE WORKS  
HERE ANYMORE,  
DOES HE?

I DON'T KNOW.  
I HAVEN'T HEARD  
FROM HIM IN A LONG  
TIME. CAN YOU HELP  
ME FIND HIM?

DID YOU  
ASK THE  
FRONT—



GYAAHHH!

WHAT'S  
WRONG? ARE  
YOU OKAY?


IT'S THESE  
DAMN HEADACHES.  
GETTING WORSE  
AND WORSE... I  
DON'T...





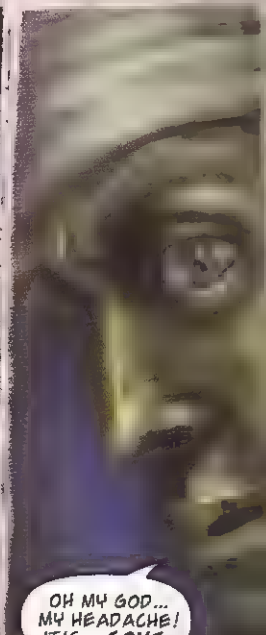
I CAN  
HELP YOU,  
JOSH...

JOSH? I NEVER  
TOLD YOU MY NAME.  
HOW DID YOU KNOW  
THAT? WHO ARE  
YOU?




ALL YOU  
HAVE TO DO  
IS LET ME...

HEY! WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING? LET  
GO OF ME!



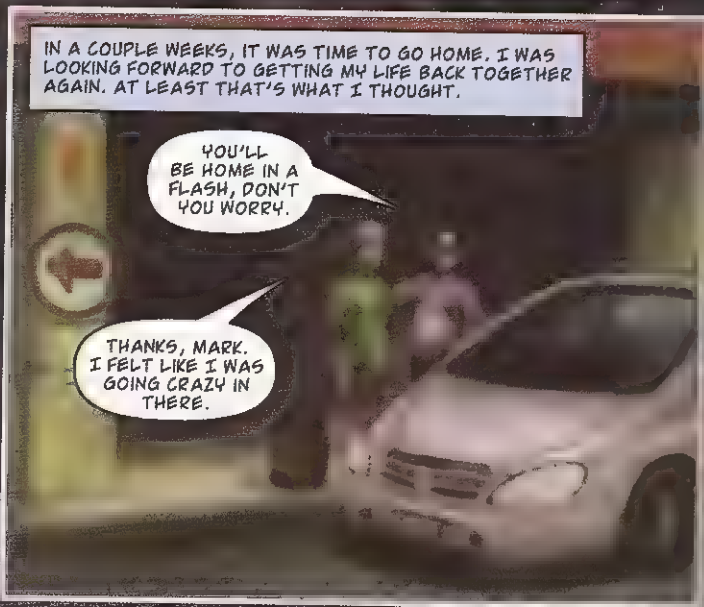
OH MY GOD...  
MY HEADACHE!  
IT'S... GONE.



SABA?  
WHERE... SHIT,  
I'M LOSING  
IT.



YES, I FOLLOWED  
HIM DOWN HERE. THIS  
ONE'S SHOWING A LOT  
OF PROMISE...




IN A COUPLE WEEKS, IT WAS TIME TO GO HOME. I WAS  
LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING MY LIFE BACK TOGETHER  
AGAIN. AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.


YOU'LL  
BE HOME IN A  
FLASH, DON'T  
YOU WORRY.

THANKS, MARK.  
I FELT LIKE I WAS  
GOING CRAZY IN  
THERE.





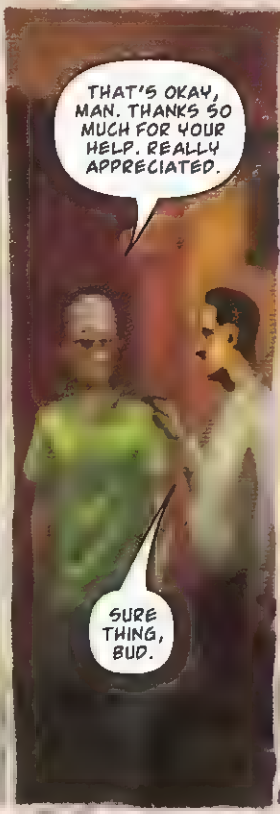
MARK DROVE ME HOME, EXCITED  
TO TELL ME ABOUT...



...I'M NOT SURE WHAT. I DON'T REMEMBER A  
WORD HE SAID. I WAS TRYING NOT TO SCREAM.




LET ME  
DRAG THESE  
UPSTAIRS.



THAT'S OKAY,  
MAN. THANKS SO  
MUCH FOR YOUR  
HELP. REALLY  
APPRECIATED.

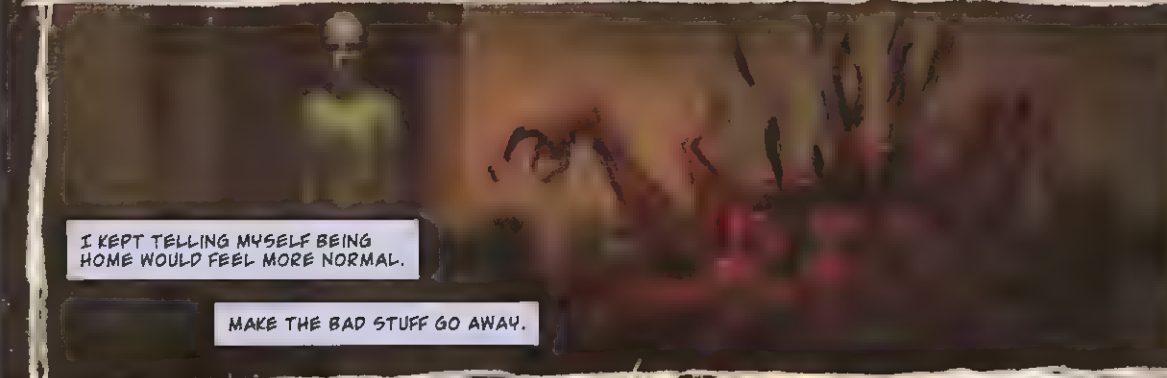
SURE  
THING,  
BUD.



GREAT TO  
HAVE YOU BACK.  
CALL ME WITH  
ANYTHING,  
ANYTIME.







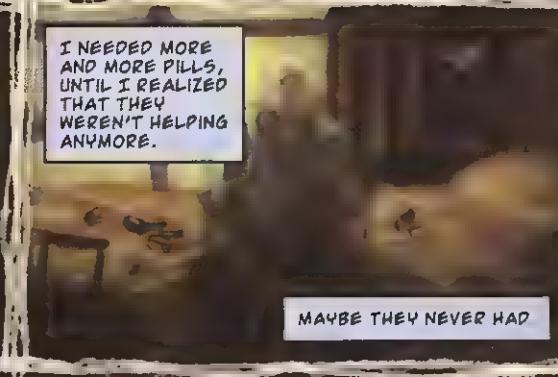
I KEPT TELLING MYSELF BEING HOME WOULD FEEL MORE NORMAL.

MAKE THE BAD STUFF GO AWAY.



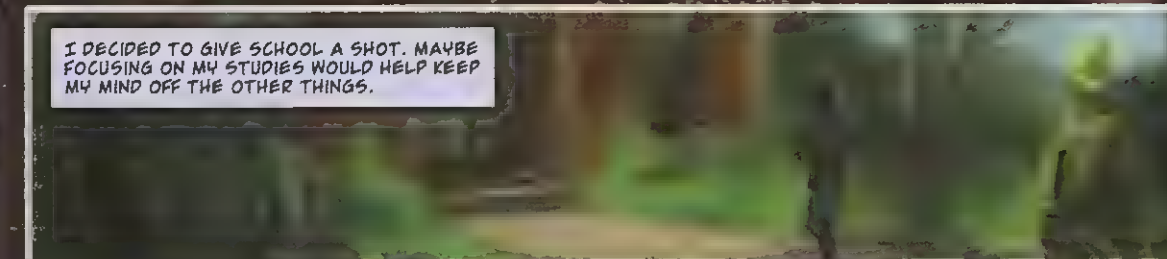
THE MEDICATION HELPED BANISH THE MERELY IMAGINARY...

...TO REVEAL A REALITY THAT SEEMED NO LESS DISTURBING.

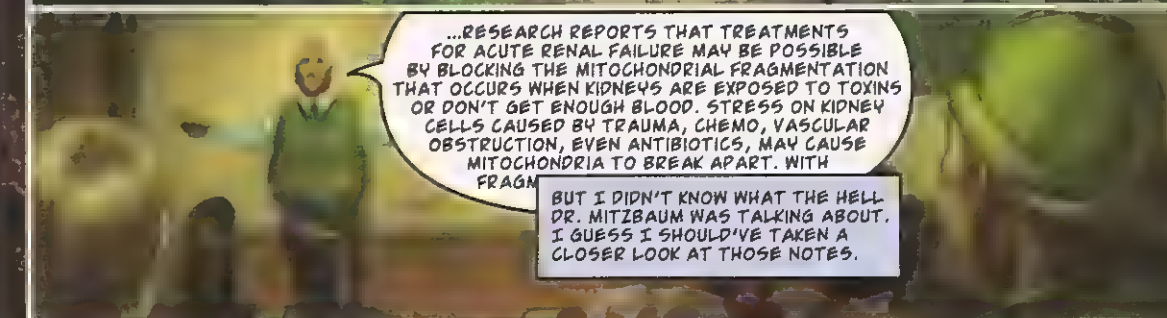


I NEEDED MORE AND MORE PILLS, UNTIL I REALIZED THAT THEY WEREN'T HELPING ANYMORE.

MAYBE THEY NEVER HAD




I DECIDED TO GIVE SCHOOL A SHOT. MAYBE FOCUSING ON MY STUDIES WOULD HELP KEEP MY MIND OFF THE OTHER THINGS.




...RESEARCH REPORTS THAT TREATMENTS FOR ACUTE RENAL FAILURE MAY BE POSSIBLE BY BLOCKING THE MITOCHONDRIAL FRAGMENTATION THAT OCCURS WHEN KIDNEYS ARE EXPOSED TO TOXINS OR DON'T GET ENOUGH BLOOD. STRESS ON KIDNEY CELLS CAUSED BY TRAUMA, CHEMO, VASCULAR OBSTRUCTION, EVEN ANTIBIOTICS, MAY CAUSE MITOCHONDRIA TO BREAK APART. WITH FRAGM

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL DR. MITZBAUM WAS TALKING ABOUT. I GUESS I SHOULD'VE TAKEN A CLOSER LOOK AT THOSE NOTES.



MY MIND CONTINUED TO WANDER. KEPT DRIFTING BACK TO **ONE PERSON**. I KEPT WONDERING WHERE **SHE** WAS.



GUESS I COULDN'T AVOID IT. I WANTED TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK WITH CARLY BUT I STILL COULDN'T SHAKE WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE THE ACCIDENT

OH...  
JOSH...





HEY, YOU.

YOU LOOK GREAT. I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN...



NO WORRIES, I'M STILL PLAYING CATCH UP.



HEY...



RAY FIELDING. YOU'RE JOSH, RIGHT?

YEP.

HEARD A LOT OF GREAT THINGS ABOUT YOU, MAN.



SHIT, IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...

GREAT THINGS... THAT'S GREAT.


JUST KEEP IT TOGETHER, JOSH. IT ISN'T REAL...



WE'RE ALL HEADED TO A CABIN IN THE REDWOODS FOR A STUDY-IN-NATURE WEEKEND. YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO COME ALONG.


THANKS, BUT... I BETTER GET GOING.






FELT LIKE SOMEONE JUST HAMMERED  
A SCREWDRIVER THROUGH MY SKULL.  
HAD TO KEEP WALKING...

JOSH!




I'M SO SORRY.  
THIS ISN'T AT ALL HOW  
I WANTED THIS TO GO. I—  
WE HAVEN'T TALKED FOR  
A WHILE AND I DIDN'T  
KNOW...

NO  
EXPLANATION  
NECESSARY.  
REALLY, A LOT HAS  
CHANGED. I DIDN'T  
EXPECT YOU TO  
WAIT FOR... I'M  
NOT EVEN SURE  
FOR WHAT.



I STILL WANT  
TO BE THERE  
FOR YOU.



I'M SORRY,  
I'VE GOT  
TO GO.





EVERYTHING SLIPPED  
FROM MY GRASP. AND  
I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE  
THE WORLD ANYMORE.

THE GODDAMN HEADACHES  
KEPT GETTING WORSE.

MY OWN MIND  
BETRAYED ME.


NOTHING LEFT...

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND SOLACE. I  
JUST PRAYED IT WOULD WORK. WHAT IF  
I WOKE UP IN MONTE CLAIRE AGAIN  
AND RELIVED THE SAME NIGHTMARE?









YES, I'M REAL. AND  
I'M **HERE**. I KNOW WHAT  
IT'S LIKE TO LOSE SOMEONE,  
TO BE ALONE... TO BE LOST  
IN A PLACE YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.

IT DOESN'T HAVE  
TO BE LIKE THIS,  
JOSH. WE CAN HELP  
EACH OTHER.

I CAN MAKE  
THE WORLD  
BETTER FOR  
YOU.

SAYA. I WAS  
WONDERING IF  
I'D EVER SEE  
YOU AGAIN.

I KNOW.

ALL THE PAIN, ALL THE FEAR,  
ALL THE LONELINESS...

...JUST MELTED AWAY INTO  
THE MOST INCREDIBLE BLISS...

...AND CONSUMED EVERYTHING.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN  
LOVE? FOUND THAT ONE  
PERSON WHO MAKES IT  
ALL WORTH LIVING? I  
HAVE. I KNOW THAT  
FEELING WELL...



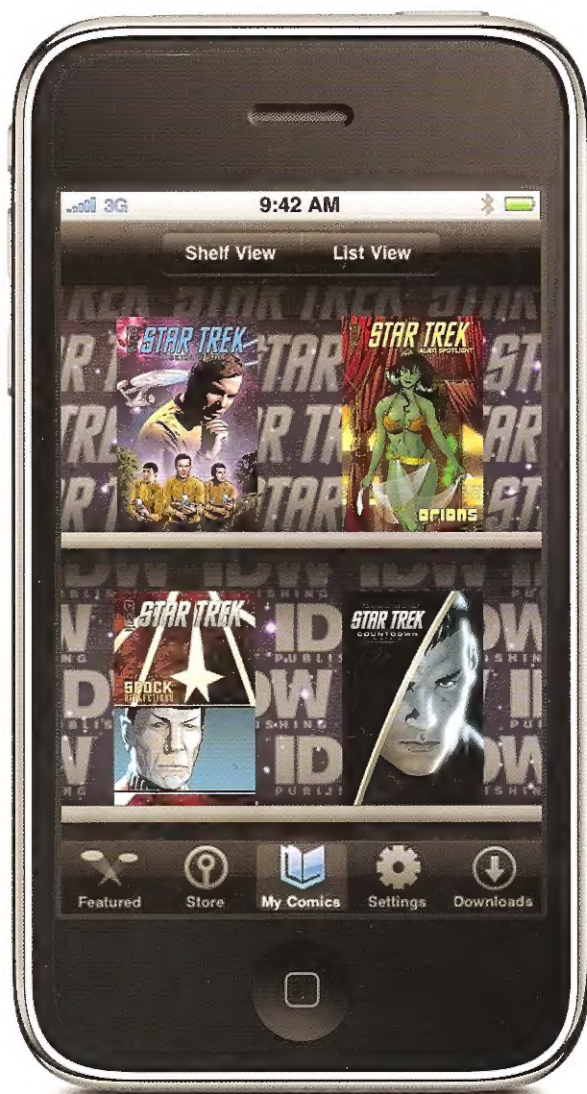


IT'S LIKE I WAS IN AN ENTIRELY  
DIFFERENT WORLD.

TO BE CONTINUED...



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